

Community Matters

Recognizing America's Top Youth Volunteers

(NAPSA)—For their extraordinary efforts in serving others through volunteerism, 10 middle and high school students from across the country have been named America's top youth volunteers for 2007.

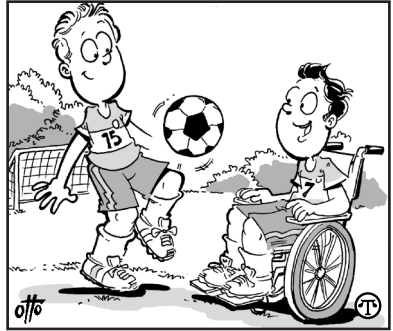
Two of the teens raised huge amounts of money to combat diabetes and neurological diseases, while two others conducted ambitious fundraising campaigns to benefit orphans in Africa and China. Other projects that earned Prudential Spirit of Community Awards included:

- Starting a soccer league for special-needs children;
- Developing a way to remove a controversial chemical from drinking water;
- Making cement markers for the graves of veterans;
- Writing advice booklets for foster kids; and
- Installing a handicapped-accessible fishing dock at a local lake.

Another National Honoree raised money to buy bulletproof vests for police dogs after leading an effort to overturn a law that had prohibited such activity.

Ranging in age from 13 to 18, the National Honorees were selected on the basis of their personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact and personal growth. Each received a personal award of \$5,000, an engraved gold medalion, a crystal trophy for the school or organization that nominated him/her and a \$5,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation for charities of his/her choice.

The awards ceremony was part of a four-day celebration that brought the top two youth volunteers from each state and the Dis-



America's top youth volunteers make a difference—both in their communities and around the world.

trict of Columbia to Washington with their parents to be recognized for their outstanding acts of community service. All 102 recipients were personally congratulated by Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning at a gala dinner reception at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

"These outstanding young role models have demonstrated a level of compassion, dedication and achievement that is truly exceptional," said Arthur F. Ryan, Chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial, Inc. "We are proud to give them the recognition they so richly deserve, and hope that their example will inspire other young people to become actively involved in their own communities."

Conducted in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were created to encourage youth volunteerism and to identify and reward young role models. For more information about the awards and this year's honorees, visit www.prudential.com/spirit.